

# 26 Boomtown's Topography



**A**n important part of evaluating a building site is determining the stability of the land. Stable areas have landforms that have not changed much over a long time. One way to learn about recent changes to the land surface is to compare the present day topography with past topography.

*Although Boomtown has grown quickly in the last twenty years, it was only a small town one hundred years ago. The Boomtown Library has maps that can show you how the area looked in the past.*

## CHALLENGE

What can topographical maps tell you about the stability of a building site?

### MATERIALS



*For each pair of students*

- 1 Student Sheet 26.1, "Maps of Boomtown 100 Years Ago"
- 1 Student Sheet 26.2, "Maps of Boomtown 20 Years Ago"
- 1 Student Sheet 26.3, "Maps of Boomtown Today"



## ANALYSIS



1. What is the contour interval in the topographical maps of Boomtown?



2. a. What major changes did you observe between 100 years ago and 20 years ago?

b. What major changes did you observe between 20 years ago and today?



3. Look at the maps of the three locations in Boomtown.

a. Which of the three locations is the most stable?

b. Which of the three locations is the least stable?

c. Explain the evidence that supports your answers to 3a and 3b above.



4. Do the maps indicate possible problems for building at any of the possible locations?